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# Farm Broadcasters Letter



CURRENT RECORDS

Letter No. 2240

December 5, 1985

## GRAIN TEAM TO SOVIET

A team of government and industry grain specialists are visiting the Soviet Union to consult with Soviet officials on the quality of U.S. grain exports to the USSR, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The visit is part of the ongoing effort to address questions relating to grain quality that have arisen during consultations under the five-year grain agreement.

## \$1.5 BILLION IN DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS

Eligible wheat farmers will receive approximately \$1.5 billion in deficiency payments for the 1985 crop, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Eligible barley producers will receive about \$150 million, and eligible oat producers, about \$10 million. Deficiency payments are required under the 1985 wheat, barley and oat programs because average market prices received by farmers during the first five months of the marketing year were below established target price levels of \$4.38 per bushel for wheat, \$2.60 per bushel for barley, and \$1.60 per bushel for oats.

## AG EXPORTS FORECAST - \$29 BILLION

U.S. farm product exports in fiscal 1986 are forecast by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at \$29 billion, 7 pct. below fiscal 1985's \$31.2 billion. That's nearly \$15 billion below the 1981 peak. Export volume is estimated at a little over 120 million tons, down 4 pct. from fiscal 1985. The projected drop in export value will come about as prices fall and volume is cut by continued strong competition from other countries for export sales and large production by traditional importers.

## CORN SALES

Corn shipments during the 4-week period ending Nov. 14 were 3.8 million tons, an increase of 65 pct. over last month's total, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. New corn sales were almost 4.3 million tons, well above last month's total of 2.6 million tons.

## MORE WHEAT TO ARGENTINA?

A stronger demand for high quality U.S. wheat could result from some loss in Argentina wheat production and quality due to severe flooding across much of the country, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. While final assessment of the damage to the Argentine wheat crop is being completed, the current 1985/86 (July/June) export forecast is 7.4 million tons, down from 8.6 million tons last year.

SUBSIDIZED  
EC WHEAT

The European Community is aggressively marketing subsidized EC wheat in China, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This could negatively affect sales of wheat from the U.S. and other supplier countries. Reports indicate that France recently sold 250,000 to 600,000 tons of wheat to China at a price of \$98 per ton, FOB, with EC exporters getting an additional subsidy of 6 European Community Units per ton above the standard subsidy. The U.S. supplied China with about 3 million tons of wheat in 1984/85, with Australia the other major supplier.

WHEAT EXPORT  
FORECAST

In 1985/86, the U.S. wheat export forecast fell to 27.2 million tons, the lowest level in 10 years, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This drop is mostly the result of more aggressive competition, particularly from the European Community. Accumulated exports and commitments through Nov. 14 were just under 15 million tons as compared to almost 31 million tons one year ago. The Soviet Union, which has purchased 7 million tons of wheat from the U.S. by mid-Nov. 1984, has thus far purchased just 150,000 tons in 1985.

JUST CALL IT  
GOSAGROPROM

The administration of agriculture in the Soviet is undergoing change, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The main feature of the reorganization is the abolishment of the USSR Ministry of Agriculture. A new organization, the State Agro-Industrial Committee (GOSAGROPROM) was established. It encompasses functions previously held by the USSR ministries of agriculture, fruit and vegetable production, rural construction, milk and meat industry, and food industry, as well as the State Committee for the Technological Servicing of Agriculture.

USSR AG  
TARGETS  
FOR 1990

The USSR has announced production plans for 1990, the last year of the twelfth five-year plan which begins in 1986, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Here are some production targets, in million tons: Grain, 250 to 255 million tons; Potatoes, 90 to 92; Sugarbeets, 92 to 95; Sunflowerseed, 7½ million tons; vegetables, 40 to 42; raw cotton, around 9½ million tons; lint cotton, around 3 million; meat, 21; milk, 106 to 110; and eggs, 80 to 82 billions.

COMMERCIAL  
FERTILIZERS

The consumption of fertilizer in the U.S. and Puerto Rico during the year that ended June 30, 1985, totaled 49 million tons, down 2 pct. from the 50 million tons consumed during the 1983-84 year. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the five leading States in order of total consumption for the year ended June 30 were: Ill., 4.13 million tons, down 6 pct.; Iowa, 3.73 million tons, 7 pct. below last year; Texas, 3.08 million tons; and Indiana, 2.66 million.

RELEASE DATES  
FOR SUPPLY &  
DEMAND EST.

Release dates for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's 1986 World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates will coincide with the monthly U.S. Crop Production reports. The Supply and Demand Estimates are scheduled for release at 3 p.m. Eastern Time on Jan. 10, Feb. 10, Mar. 10, Apr. 10, May 9, June 10, July 11, Aug. 12, Sept. 11, Oct. 10, Nov. 10, and Dec. 10.

FROM OUR  
TELEVISION  
SERVICE

BRUCellosIS INDEMNITY PAYMENTS...Dr. Billy Johnson with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, talks about changes made under the Brucellosis Indemnity Payment plan, and how these changes will affect farmers and their herds. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (526)

GREENBUG RESEARCH...Dave McNeal with USDA's Extension Service describes the type of damage caused by greenbugs, and research work being conducted at Oklahoma State University to fight greenbug attacks on wheat plants. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (527)

WORLD AGRICULTURE...In fiscal 1985 the U.S. agriculture trade balance fell forty percent from last year's level to the second smallest surplus in ten years, 11.4 billion. USDA economist Cecil Davison examines this situation and the outlook for world agriculture. Vic Powell interviews. (528)

AQUACULTURE UPDATE...USDA marketing specialist Dale Miller discusses factors contributing to the growth and success of aquaculture. Vic Powell interviews. (529)

RE-EVALUATING ESTATE PLANS...Don Uchtmann, University of Illinois, focuses on estate planning and why it's important for farmers to sometimes re-evaluate their estate plans. Gary Beaumont interviews. (530)



FROM OUR RADIO  
SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1488...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) On this edition of AGRICULTURE USA Brenda Curtis talks to the Deputy Administrator of USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service about the world grain situation.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1477...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Soviet five year plan for agriculture; Agribusiness in poor health; Overall ag outlook; Gasoline changes coming.

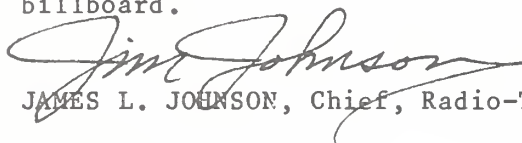
CONSUMER TIME #970...(Weekly reel of five 2½-3 min features) A Christmas tree in a box; Some sensible party food; Good and bad mistletoe; Money fights; A game about farming.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Tues, Dec. 10, U.S. crop production, Weekly crop and weather report, World ag supply and demand; Fri, Dec. 13, Foreign ag trade of U.S., Milk production; Tues, Dec. 17, Weekly crop and weather report, Agricultural outlook. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. EST each working day.



OFF MIKE

Two errors to correct first off, one created while trying to clarify another error and the second simply one of oversight. Two weeks ago we inadvertently displaced Craighton Knau. He really works at KMA, Shenandoah, IA, not at WMT where we had him. The oversight came when we only mentioned four of the five NAFB regional vice presidents and got Dave Russell (WOWO, Ft. Wayne, IN) into the wrong region. Dave is VP for the NE Region and Rod Johnson (KDHL, Faribault, MN) is the NAFB vice president for the North Central region. Our apologies all around ... Garth Clark (Ag Day TV Network, Lafayette, IN) is looking for a full-time farm broadcaster. Call him at 317-463-1800 or 317-497-9530 ... Tom Steever (KSOO, Sioux Falls, SD) reports he talked with Cletus Paull (KBUR, Burlington, IA) and that he is home and doing quite well. As you may know, Cletus slipped and broke his hip the first day of the NAFB meeting in Kansas City. John Weir and Bob Shomper are covering the farm beat at the station. John says Cletus plans to be back at the microphone after the first of the year ... Lynn Ketelsen (Linder Farm Net, Willmar, MN) is wearing a full leg cast these days after he broke his Achilles tendon playing basketball. When we talked to him, he was at the station working a shortened day schedule. He says they'll replace the full cast with one from the knee down about mid-December. Then after the first of the year he'll get a walking cast for a month. After that it's four months rehabilitation. The moral of the story is: "Don't break your Achilles tendon. Ask Dink "Colonel" Embry (WHOP, Hopkinsville, KY) if you want another opinion." Lynn says, "Don't send cards. Send money." Incidentally, Lynn's cast kept him from receiving an award in person. He was named Minnesota Agriculture Communicator of the Year, and his brother accepted the award for him ... Lee Kline (WHO, Des Moines, IA) reports that fellow worker Bob Quinn is at home now recuperating from his car accident. Bob was in intensive care for a week following the accident ... Final note: Let us know if you have an electronic mailbox. We'll add you to our Dialcom listing for our daily news billboard.



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Farm Broadcasters Letter  
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